

HOWELL TOWNSHIP BOARD REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES

Howell Township Hall

July 10, 2017

6:30. p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mike Coddington	Supervisor
Jean Graham	Clerk
Jonathan Hohenstein	Treasurer
Matthew Counts	Trustee
Carolyn Eaton	Trustee
Dar Howard	Trustee
Harold Melton	Trustee

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Supervisor Coddington called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. The roll was called. All rose for the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

MOTION by Hohenstein, seconded by Howard, **“TO APPROVE THE JULY 10, 2017 AGENDA AS AMENDED: REMOVE ITEM 12, CLOSED SESSION.”** Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION by Hohenstein, seconded by Howard, **“TO APPROVE THE MAY 8, 2017 BUDGET MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED.”** Motion carried. (See May 8, 2017 Budget Meeting Minutes)

MOTION by Hohenstein, seconded by Howard, **“TO APPROVE THE JUNE 12, 2017 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES AS CORRECTED: UNDER ITEM NEW BUSINESS G, CORRECT THE SPELLING OF THE WORD OFFICERS AND REMOVE THE APOSTROPHE FROM THE WORD TRUSTEES. UNDER REPORTS, ITEM B, LAST SENTENCE CAPITALIZE THE WORD TOWNSHIP.”** Motion carried. (See July 12, 2017 Meeting Minutes)

CORRESPONDENCE:

See List.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

Marlas Greiger, President of the Livingston County Farmers Club, gave a synopsis of the landscaping project she did around the Township Hall. Marlas and her helpers dug up old dead plants, cleaned up the beddings, planted many new plants and then mulched. She thanked the people who helped her; Township Assessor Brent Kilpela and his family, Township Treasurer Jonathan Hohenstein, Beth Gibson, Cameron Schroeder, Deputy Sheriff Dave Loar and the Livingston County S.W.A.P. Also a big thank you to Howell Landscaping Supplies for supplying the mulch. Because of her research and getting the great discounts she found, she announced that there is money left from the project. This will go towards a few more plants and possibly even more in the spring. She has even created a scrapbook describing all the new plants that were planted. The Township Board thanked Marlas for all her hard work and remarked how nice the outside looks now.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- A. KENNEL ORDINANCE, BOARD INPUT - Trustee Counts explained that the Planning Commission is close to having the updated Kennel Ordinance completed but, would like the Township Board's input and then the Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing in August. The Planning Commission is then hoping to finalize their draft and then bring back to the Board in September for final approval. The two main issues; 1) the difference between a Commercial and a Rural Kennel 2) the definition of Household Pets. It was the consensus of the Board that they like the new verbiage of the ordinance but

had concerns about the deleted section that talked about non-adult dogs who are under six months old. Trustee Counts will take this input back to the Planning Commission.

- B. HUMAN RESOURCE – The Human Resource Committee was asked to look into a possible stipend in lieu of insurance for full time employees who do not take the Township’s health insurance benefit. There was discussion on the amount that is paid by the Township for employees who take the health benefit ~~verses~~ ^{^versus^} the lesser amount that would be provided if not taking the insurance. It was the consensus of the Human Resource Committee not to recommend this request. **MOTION** by Eaton, seconded by Howard, **“TO PROVIDE \$100.00 A MONTH BENEFIT FOR FULL TIME EMPLOYEES WHO DO NOT TAKE THE INSURANCE.”** Discussion followed. A roll-call vote was taken: Melton – yes, Graham – yes, Coddington – no, Eaton – yes, Counts – no, Howard – no, Hohenstein – no. Motion was defeated 4 to 3.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. BUDGET AMENDMENT (ROAD IMPROVEMENT) – Treasurer Hohenstein stated the Township approves the Township Budget before we receive the road improvement expense statement. Therefore, it is not known exactly how much to budget for road improvements. Because of this, there will be a need to make two amendments to the budget; 1) To increase the road improvement expense by \$104,000.00 to account for additional projects done with Livingston County Road Commission. 2) To increase the road chloride expense by \$22,000.00 for additional dust control work. **MOTION** by Hohenstein, seconded by Graham, **“TO ACCEPT THE TWO BUDGET AMENDMENTS AS PRESENTED.”** Discussion followed. Motion carried.
- B. APPROVE LIVINGSTON COUNTY HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN RESOLUTION – Supervisor Coddington stated that this is from the Fire Authority. By having an approved plan, it will help protect the Township with FEMA money if a disaster was to happen. **MOTION** by Howard, seconded by Hohenstein, **“TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #07.17.433 APPROVING THE LIVINGSTON COUNTY HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN.”** A roll-call vote was taken: Graham – yes, Eaton – yes, Howard – yes, Hohenstein – yes, Melton –yes, Coddington – yes, Counts – yes. Motion carries 7 to 0.

REPORTS:

- A. SUPERVISOR:
(Coddington)
 - Severn Trent has split off the US portion of their business. This will not affect any contracts.
 - Township is giving Severn Trent until the end of July for an answer about Howell Township’s self-renewing contract. However, there are discrepancies of when the contract originally went into effect. Discussion followed of staying with Severn Trent or to look for bids from other companies.
- B. TREASURER:
(Hohenstein)
 - Reported on the preliminary results from the road study performed by MDOT to have a left turn light at the corner of Oak Grove and M59. The preliminary answer is no. MDOT’s reason was, the only time traffic is bogged down is on Sunday mornings. To put a left turn light there for only a Sunday morning problem will then clog up all the other traffic lanes during the rest of the week, especially during peak times. He also talked about other road studies that have been previously approved but the new speed signs are just starting to be changed.

- C. CLERK:
(Graham)
 - See HAPRA Report.

- D. ZONING:
(Prepared by Daus)
 - No Report.

- E. ASSESSING:
(Prepared by Assessor Kilpela)
 - See report.

- F. FIRE AUTHORITY:
(Coddington)
 - Signed off on lease agreements.
 - Hazmat Resolution (see New Business B.)
 - New building that is going to the city for approval on July 19th.

- G. MHOG:
(Howard)
 - Re-stated that MHOG won award for best tasting water in this Region.
 - There were concerns about how much fluoride is put in the water. (MHOG adds minimum amount of fluoride.)
 - Close to getting all of the properties' permission for the Marion Cross Country Main.
 - Water usage is up because of the lack of rain.
 - Paid bills.
 - Supervisor Coddington added that if any outside entities wanting to use the services of MHOG they will need to get permission from its Board.

- H. PLANNING COMMISSION:
(Counts)
 - Kennel Ordinance (See Unfinished Business item A)
 - Fenton based Hamilton Propane has submitted their first draft for their Preliminary Site Plan for a propane filling station, for their trucks, on three parcels at the corner of Grand River and Burkhart Road. This would not be open to the public. On one of the parcels, they are proposing to put in self-storage units.

- I. ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS (ZBA):
(Howard)
 - No meeting

- J. WEBSITE:
(Counts)
 - Nothing new to report.

- K. WWTP:

(Hohenstein)

- After receiving complaints from residents stating that they are paying the Sewer Debt Fee but some of their neighbors are not, Treasurer Hohenstein went through all the sewer information and then did some measuring and found that there are some houses that should be paying the Sewer Debt Fee. These errors are being corrected.
- There is a stretch along Oak Grove Road, in District 8, where there is no free falling sewer in front of 9 parcels (8 have houses, 1 vacant lot). In District 8, residents were allowed to opt out of the system. These 9 parcels opted out. After much research into this, there is a need for a policy to be set in place for these 9 parcels. Eventually their current septic systems will fail. Township ordinance states that if you are within a sewer district and your septic fails, you have to hook into the Township's sewer system. But because there is no free falling sewer in front of these 9 parcels and the above normal expenses to the residents to hook in to the system, it is the consensus of the Board, to go by a case by case situation and have the County Health Department give us their opinion as to whether that parcel will need to connect to the system or whether they will be allowed to repair/replace their sept field. The Township will accept ~~their~~ ^the Livingston County Health Department's^ recommendation.
- There is one house that has been paying the Sewer ~~Debit~~ ^Debt" Fee and should not have been paying because of their previous decision of opting out. It is recommended that the Township reimburse for these fees. If this house eventually hooks up to the system the Township would recapture this amount. **MOTION** by Howard, seconded by Melton, **"TO REFUND 3305 OAK GROVE ROAD, PARCEL #4706-14-401-001 FOR TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$1,411.15 FOR SEWER ~~DEBIT~~ ^DEBT^ FEES."** Discussion followed.

L. HAPRA:
(Graham)

- Received a letter that HAPRA Executive Director, Paul Rogers, will retire with an effective date of December 22, 2017.

CALL TO PUBLIC:

No Response.

DISBURSEMENTS: REGULAR AND CHECK REGISTER:

MOTION by Counts, seconded by Hohenstein, **"TO APPROVE THE REGULAR DISBURSEMENTS THROUGH JULY 5, 2017 AND CHECK REGISTER AS PRESENTED, ALSO ANY CUSTOMARY AND NORMAL PAYMENTS FOR THE MONTH."** Discussion followed. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT: **MOTION** by Howard, seconded by Hohenstein, **"TO ADJOURN."** Motion carried. The meeting adjourned 8:05 p.m.

APPROVED:

As Presented: _____

Jean Graham
Howell Township Clerk

As Amended: _____

Mike Coddington
Howell Township Supervisor

As Corrected: **X** _____

Dated 08.14.2017

Debby Johnson
Recording Secretary